

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claim 8 has been amended to clarify that the communication channel is provided in addition to the fluid feeding/discharging means. Basis for this is found in Figure 9 which illustrates an example of the chemical feeding means 15 which is provided in addition to the fluid feeding means 8. This has the advantage that a high-pressure fluid such as super critical carbon dioxide can be fed independently of the chemical feeding hole 27. Accordingly, there is no likelihood that the pressurized state of the processing chamber 2 may adversely affect the chemical feeding line during the closing of the chemical feeding portion 27A, e.g., the chemical feeding line will not be subjected to a pressurized state (see paragraphs bridging pages 20-21). Claims 13 and 14 have been withdrawn from consideration. New dependent Claims 15-20 have also been introduced.

Claims 8-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,810,062 (Bonora et al). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Bonora et al discloses a system for charging and/or vacuum relief of a standardized mechanical interface pod including a valve provided in the pod for allowing gas to flow to and from the pod seated on registration pins. The pod 20 includes a pod door 22 through which extends a valve mating with one of the pins 34 or 68. The pin 68 (Figure 5) includes a fluid flow passage 70 and functions to open the valve to permit the ingress or discharge of fluid into the pod.

The Examiner considers the pod door 22 to be a support member and the pin 34 to be a piping member for the valve 40. However, Bonora et al lacks a communication channel provided in addition to a fluid feeding/discharging means as is now recited in Claim 8. Thus, if the Examiner considers the passage provided by the pin 34 and the valve 40-42 to be a fluid feeding/discharging means, Bonora et al fails to disclose a communication channel provided

in addition to the fluid feeding/discharging means and provided with a first valve member and a pipe. Conversely, if the Examiner considers the structure 34-42 of Bonora et al to comprise the claimed communication channel including a valve and pipe member, this structure is not provided in addition to means having the function of feeding/discharging a high pressure fluid in and out of the processing chamber. Amended Claim 8 and its dependent claims therefore clearly define over this reference.

Claim 10 further recites that the fluid feeding means includes a fluid feeding channel, a second valve and a piping member. No such second valve in a fluid feeding means to which the communication channel is provided in addition to, and including a second valve, is taught in Bonora et al.

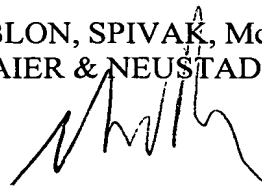
Claim 12 and new Claim 15 recite a reservoir such as that shown in Figure 10. The reservoir stores the chemical temporarily. In contrast, the source 84 of Bonora et al is not a temporary store and lacks the claimed shower head structure.

Concerning Applicants' claim for the benefit of the earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120, the Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to M.P.E.P. § 201.11. It is sufficient that the specific reference to the prior application is made in an application data sheet. Such reference has been made in the application data sheet of the present application.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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